1	* * * Public Transit Funding * * *
2	Sec. 10b. 24 V.S.A. § 5083 is amended to read:
3	§ 5083. DECLARATION OF POLICY
4	(a) It shall be the State's policy to make maximum use of available federal
5	funds for the support of public transportation. State operating support funds
6	shall be included in Agency operating budgets to the extent that funds are
7	available. State policy shall support the maintenance of existing public transit
8	services and creation of new services including, in order of precedence, the
9	following goals:
10	(1) Provision for basic mobility for transit-dependent persons, as defined
11	in the public transit policy plan of January 15, 2000, including meeting the
12	performance standards for urban, suburban, and rural areas. The density of a
13	service area's population is an important factor in determining whether the
14	service offered is fixed route, demand-response, or volunteer drivers.
15	(2) Expanding public transit service in rural areas and increasing
16	ridership State wide.
17	(3) Access to employment, including creation of demand-response
18	service.
19	(3) (4) Congestion mitigation to preserve air quality, decrease green
20	house gas emissions, and the sustainability of sustain the highway network.

- (4) (5) Advancement of economic development objectives, including services for workers and visitors that support the travel and tourism industry. Applicants for "new starts" in this service sector shall demonstrate a high level of locally derived income for operating costs from fare-box recovery, contract income, or other income.
- (b) The Agency of Transportation shall evaluate proposals for new public transit service submitted by providers in response to a notice of funding availability, by examining feasibility studies submitted by providers. The feasibility studies shall address criteria set forth in the most recent public transit policy plan.
- (c) The Agency, in cooperation with the Public Transit Advisory Council, shall adopt appropriate performance and service standards for transit systems receiving federal or State assistance. The Agency of Transportation shall provide guidance, training, funding, and technical assistance to transit systems in order to meet the performance and service standards established.
- (d) The Agency of Transportation shall provide written guidance, funding, and technical assistance in the preparation of financial and management plans for public transit systems for each fiscal year. To provide a foundation for financial stability and reliability in the provision of transportation services to the public, the Agency of Transportation shall, in cooperation with the Public Transit Advisory Council, establish both short and long-range fiscal, operating,

1	and capital investment plans to support the goals outlined in this section and
2	regional transportation development plan proposals and regional plans as
3	required by section 5089 of this title.
4	Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 5091(i) is amended to read:
5	(i) To implement The Agency of Transportation shall distribute State and
6	federal funds to public transit systems through an annual competitive program
7	that implements the public transportation policy goals set forth in section 5083
8	of this title and 19 V.S.A. § 10f, advances economic development objectives,
9	and achieves, where possible, geographic balance in funding. the Agency of
10	Transportation shall use the following formula for distribution of operating
11	funds to public transit systems:
12	(1) [Repealed]
13	(A) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State's population of
14	elders (persons age 60 and above) in each of the designated transit service
15	areas;
16	(B) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State's youth
17	population (persons ages 12 through 17) in each of the designated transit
18	service areas;
19	(C) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State's population of
20	people who have limited physical mobility in each of the designated transit
21	service areas;

1	(D) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State's population of
2	people who are in poverty in each of the designated transit service areas;
3	(E) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State's households
4	lacking access to an automobile in each of the designated transit service areas.
5	(2) 20 percent of operating funds shall be based on need for employment
6	transportation, as measured by the percentage of the State's employed persons
7	residing in each of the designated transit service areas, using data developed by
8	the Vermont Department of Labor. [Repealed.]
9	(3) 15 percent of operating funds shall be based on the need for
10	congestion mitigation and air quality, as measured by the percentage of the
11	State's overall population living in high density areas in each of the designated
12	transit service areas, using data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.
13	[Repealed.]
14	(4) 15 percent of the operating funds shall be based on need for
15	economic development transportation, as measured by the percentage of the
16	State's jobs in each of the designated transit service areas, using data
17	developed annually by the Vermont Department of Labor. [Repealed.]